

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 21, 2002

TO: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: D. F. Owen, RFETS Site Representative
SUBJECT: RFETS Activity Report for the Week Ending June 21, 2002

The site rep. was out of the office on Tuesday and Wednesday to attend a workshop sponsored by DOE Headquarters on future revision of the DOE Occurrence Reporting and Processing System.

Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System (PuSPS). As reported last week, PuSPS operations were stopped all of last week to install and test a new power supply for the laser welding machine. This testing was satisfactory, but it was determined following the testing that other electronic components for the laser welder needed to be replaced. As a result, PuSPS operations did not resume until late Thursday. (3-A)

Response to the Board Letter of March 19, 2002. This letter forwarded to the DOE Office of Environmental Management (DOE-EM) staff observations on (1) the response to the DOE-RFFO 2001 Annual Integrated Safety Management (ISM) Update review in the areas of activity-level work planning and DOE-RFFO oversight of activity-level work planning, and (2) proper cause determination for occurrences at RFETS. The Board requested that DOE inform the Board of actions that address the observations including any actions aimed at improving the response to annual ISM update reviews at RFETS.

This week, DOE-RFFO submitted a response to the Board's letter to DOE-EM. DOE-RFFO identified actions taken since March and future actions to address the observations. DOE-RFFO also identified actions to improve the response to annual ISM update reviews at RFETS. Most of the actions are to be completed by August 2002. DOE-RFFO also proposed providing a progress briefing to the Board in the next few months. (1-C)

Planned Size Reduction Activity. As reported on May 23rd, DOE-RFFO had asked Kaiser-Hill to begin planning and preparations to perform size reduction operations in Building 371 on 125 items containing special nuclear material to accommodate the DOE-EM decision to use a smaller shipping container. This week, RFETS management made the determination that a Kaiser-Hill Readiness Assessment (RA) will be performed to confirm readiness for this activity. The RA is currently planned for August. Building 371 Project management intends to complete the RA Plan-of-Action defining the RA scope and the line management prerequisites for starting the RA in the next few weeks. (3-A)

Decommissioning Lessons Learned. RFETS will be sponsoring an informational exchange meeting from June 25th to 27th with Hanford personnel working decommissioning preparations for the Plutonium Finishing Plant. The objective of the meeting is to share information on specific lessons learned from planning and execution of decommissioning activities at RFETS and Hanford. (3-B)

cc

Board Members